



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS LIVE INTERNET BROADCAST

Veterans Treatment Courts

A Second Chance for Vets Who Have Lost Their Way

Description

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) will be conducting a live-streaming Internet broadcast on justice-involved veterans, highlighting the lifesaving role being played by Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) across the country. The three-hour broadcast titled "Veterans Treatment Courts: A Second Chance for Vets Who Have Lost Their Way" will be aired live on Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

From WWII through the continuing global war on terror, there are approximately 21.5 million veterans in the United States today. So many of these men, and increasingly women, return home damaged mentally and physically from their time in service. These wounds often contribute to their involvement in the criminal justice system. As a result, there are far too many veterans in our jails and prisons.

Veterans Treatment Courts provide hope, restore families, and save lives. The first VTC, founded in 2008 in Buffalo, New York, has inspired the creation of more than 220 courts of similar nature in jurisdictions, both large and small, across the country. Hundreds more are in various stages of planning and implementation.

These courts have the support of the communities they serve, as well as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and local service providing agencies. Critical to the success of VTCs are veterans who volunteer to be trained and serve as mentors to justice-involved veterans.

"What has been created through Veterans Treatment Courts is the most profound change in the attitude of our criminal justice system towards veterans in the history of our country."

Patrick Welch, Veterans Advocate, Buffalo, NY

Register Now

- o <http://nicic.gov/training/ib2015>
- o **Date:** August 26, 2015
- o **Time:** 12:00 p.m. EST
- o **Registration deadline:** August 26, 2015
- o **How to register:**
You must register for this broadcast online. Registration is free and open to anyone.



Hon. Judge Robert Russell
Buffalo, NY

Is Your Organization Looking for Answers to the Following Questions?

- What are the essential elements needed to establish a VTC?
- How can we identify a champion and other key players who will work diligently to create a VTC?
- How critical are peer mentors and a mentor training program in the operation of a VTC?
- How do we gauge success of VTCs?
- How do VTCs hold justice-involved veterans accountable?

Broadcast Panelists/Subject Matter Experts

- Gregory Crawford, Project Manager, Correctional Program Specialist, NIC
- Heather French Henry, Commissioner, KY Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Thomas J. Berger, Ph.D., Executive Director, Veterans Health Council, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Bernard Edelman, Dept. Director for Policy and Government Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Nicolas Stefanovic, Judicial Assessment Specialist, Rochester Treatment Court, NY
- Melissa Fitzgerald, Senior Director, Justice for Vets
- Hon. Robert Russell, Erie County Court Judge, Buffalo Treatment Courts, NY
- Hon. John Schwartz, Retired, Rochester City Courts, NY
- Elizabeth Burek, Coordinator, Rochester Veterans Courts, NY
- Sean Clark, J.D., National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Who Should Attend

Local, state, and federal court systems; pretrial and prosecutor/defense associations; National Judicial College; U.S. attorney offices; law enforcement; U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs; justice-involved veterans service organizations; criminal justice and correctional leadership; community-based service providers; substance abuse and mental health treatment providers; PTSD, TBI and trauma treatment providers; national correctional associations; Council of State Governments; probation and parole chiefs; managers and staff.

About Live Broadcasts

NIC's live Internet broadcasts offer corrections professionals an interactive video forum on current and pressing topics in corrections. These broadcasts are interactive and allow you to engage with and learn from experts around the world.

Delivered via Internet streaming, the broadcasts are available for download by any individual, agency or facility nationwide. You can view the broadcast on a computer screen or mobile device individually or use a projector to enlarge the signal for a sizable audience.

Registration is required, but there is no charge to attend.